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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I want to speak to the value of competition in communications services.

Without competition, we would still be vassals of AT&T, probably still largely fixed line with slower speeds, fewer options, and higher costs.

The United States is still far behind the array of communications options available in many European and Asian countries because of corporate firewalls that, through politics, inhibit international options. In so many ways, the US is a bumpkin island, cursed by economic xenophobia that is driven by corporations greedy for a larger slice, greater revenues and sunny quarterly results, damn the consumers.

It's not a happy picture that I draw, but I am old enough to have been through the revolution of the breakup of AT&T and the resultant huge drop in costs. AT&T was a money machine, depriving consumers and businesses of treasure and service.

And ultimately, came the time of abundant options. At this point, I use VOIP from outlier carriers who piggyback on systems that have largely been built through public benefits to a coterie of big telecoms. AT&T and Verizon are still all powerful. As citizens we have to allow their towers in our neighborhoods, so they are even taxing us.

As a child in rural Montana I recall the party line phones. My cousins now have broadband access. Broadband has transformed communication in that state. I live in California now, and we have lots of options and we deserve them. All citizens deserve the right of communications at fair, reasonable prices.

Jeremy Potash